

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 00216 091459Z

40

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01

/042 W

----- 119600

R 091102Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8120

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0216

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, DM

SUBJ: PRES KEREKOU DECLARES NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL'S
SENTENCES WILL BE CARRIED OUT

REF COTONOU 181,

1. IN PARAKOU SPEECH FEB 7 PRES KEREKOU SAID "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" WERE SPREADING STORIES THAT THE SENTENCES HANDED DOWN BY THE "NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL" FEB FIRST (SEE REFTEL) AGAINST THE ALLEGED PLOTTERS WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT. HE ASSERTED THAT SENTENCES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO THE LETTER. HE ALSO REMINDED HIS LISTENERS THAT HE HAD NOT PARDONED THOSE CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUP ATTEMPT OF JAN 1975 (I.E. ASSOGBA ET AL).

2. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ELIE HOUKPONNOU, THE ONLY ONE OF THE ELEVEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FEB FIRST IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN GOVT'S HANDS, WILL ESCAPE EXECUTION. UNLIKE THE THREE IN DEATH ROW SINCE MARCH 75 (CAPT ASSOGBA, FATHER QUENUM AND ADRIEN GLELE), HOUKPONNOU IS NOT A WELL KNOWN PERSONALITY WITH THE SYMPATHY OF AT LEAST PART OF THE POPULATION BEHIND HIM. HE IS ONLY A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN POLICE OFFICER. ALTHOUGH POLICE CONTROLS HAVE BECOME VERY TIGHT, AND KEREKOU AND THE EXTREMISTS PRESENTLY APPEAR VERY CONFIDENT THAT THEY HAVE THE POPULATION FIRMLY IN HAND, WE REMAIN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 00216 091459Z

SKEPTICAL THAT ASSOGBA, QUENUM AND GLELE WILL BE EXECUTED.

ENGLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERVENTION, PLOTS, COURT DECISIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COTONO00216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-1155
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760269/aaaacikw.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COTONOU 181
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRES KEREKOU DECLARES NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL'S SENTENCES WILL BE CARRIED OUT
TAGS: PINS, DM, (KEREKOU, MATHIEU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006